

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GH US

SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM ACHEAMPONG

REF: A. ACCRA 6875 B. ACCRA 6970

1. I WAS CALLED AT 1745 SEPTEMBER 23 BY E.M. DEBRAH, SECRETARY TO THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) WHO ASKED IF I COULD COME TO THE CASTEL. ON ARRIVAL I WAS HANDED A LETTER ADDRESSED TO ME BY HEAD OF STATE, GENERAL I.K. ACHEAMPONG. THE LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 23 DISASSOCIATED THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA FROM THE SEPTEMBER 16 EDITORIAL PUBLISHED IN THE GHANAIAI TIMES WHICH PERSONALLY ATTACKED THE SECRETARY. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:
QUOTE:

I HAVE SEEN THE EDITORIAL OF THE GHANAIAI TIMES OF 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1976, ON DR. HENRY KISSINGER'S MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. I HAVE ALSO SEEN YOUR REPLY TO THE EDITORIAL AND THE EDITOR'S REPLY TO YOUR LETTER. I WANT TO PLACE IT ON RECORD THAT THE EDITORIAL AND COMMENT DO NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GHANA GOVERNMENT, AND THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT IN ANY WAY SHARE THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED.

THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL IS ANXIOUS TO SEE THE END OF RACISM AND COLONIALISM IN AFRICA AS WELL AS THE ILLEGAL REGIME
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IN RHODESIA. THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE DOES NOT OBJECT TO ANY

GENUINE EFFORTS BEING MADE TO BRING ABOUT THESE CHERISHED GOALS.
WE REGRET THAT THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS OFTEN DEGENERATES INTO THE
KIND OF UNWARRANTED ATTACK AS APPEARED IN THE EDITORIAL. BUT
IT IS THE PRICE WE HAVE TO PAY IN OUR EFFORTS TO BUILD A FREE AND
INDEPENDENT PRESS.

YOUR SINCERELY,

/S/

GEN.I.K. ACHEAMPONG
HEAD OF STATE AND CHAIRMAN OF
THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL.

UNQUOTE.

2.COMMENT: IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED DEBRAH EXPRESSED
ACHEAMPONG'S CONCERN THAT THE USG UNDERSTAND THAT THE EDITORIAL DID
NOT REPRESENT GOG VIEWS. HE WENT ON TO EXPRESS ONCE AGAIN HIS DISGUST
ABOUT GYAWU-KYEM'S OPERATION AND ADDED "I WILL GET THAT BASTARD ONE
DAY." I SAID THAT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE ANY SMALL CONTRIBUTION
I CAN TO THAT END.
LINEHAN

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